

Message Text

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11
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P 280520Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4416

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FOR NEA CONSTABLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, (PERCY, CHARLES)
SUBJECT: CODEL PERCY

REF: STATE 212459

1. IT WAS GOOD OF SENATOR PERCY TO OFFER TO HELP US WHEN HE TALKS TO PRIME MINISTER MUJIB ON WEDNESDAY. PERHAPS YOU OR ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES IN NEA WILL BE BRIEFING THE SENATOR ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BANGLADESH BEFORE THE LUNCH AND, IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION, YOU MIGHT PASS THE FOLLOWLNG COMMENTS TO HIM.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: I APPRECIATE YOU WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE ANY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US DURING THE LUNCH FOR PRIME MINISTER MUJIB. WHILE I HAVE NO VERY SPECIFIC MATTERS TO SUGGEST PRESSING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THIS TIME, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU AS BACKGROUND FOR YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

3. THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH IS GOOD, THE ATMOSPHERE HAVING IMPRVBD STEADILY OVER RECENT MONTHS. THE STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS SO EVIDENT IN THE EARLY MONTHS AFTER INDEPENDENCE IN THE WIDESPREAD ATTACKS ON US IN THE PRESS AND THE PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON OUR USIS INSTALLATION IS GONE. ALL DOORS ARE NOW WIDE OPEN TO US, EMPHASITICALLY INCLUDING

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S, AND WE HAVE FREQUENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. BANGLADESH HAS SOUGHT SIMILAR GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WE SHARE AND ENCOURAGE THE VIEW THAT SUCH A BALANCED APPROACH BEST SERVES BANGLABUSH'S INTERESTS. THERE IS ENOUGH TO BE DONE HERE TO REQUIRE HELP FROM EVERY POSSIBLE QUARTER. WHILE OUR OWN VIEWS NECESSARILY DIVERGE FROM THE BDG'S IN SOME AREAS, WE UNDERSTAND THE BDG'S MOTIVATIONS AND THESE DIVERGENCES HAVE NOT PREVENTED THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR OWN RELATIONS.

5. THERE ARE TWO POINTS WE NOW MAKE TO OUR BENGALEE FRIENDS WHEN WE CAN. THE FIRST IS TO ENCOURAGE THEM IN THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION WITH PAKISTAN, WHILE REMINDING THEM THAT THE PROBLEMS THEY CONFRONT IN THIS PROCESS CAN, IN THE END, ONLY BE SOLVED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES, MUJIB HAS, WE BELIEVE, SHOWN HIMSELF GENEROUS IN THE PAST IN HIS STEPS TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE AND WE HAVE APPLAUDED HIS EFFORTS. BANGLADESH PRESENTLY SEES "PAVISTANI INTRANSIGENCE" AS THE BAR TO

FURTHER PROGRESS BUT WE ARE STILL QUIETLY URGED THEM TO KEEP TRYING.

6. SECOND, WE ARE TRYING TO RERSUADE BANGLADESH OFFICIALS THAT THEY NEED TO PUT THEIR HOUSE IN BETTER ORDER TO ADVANCE THEIR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE APPRECIATE THE ENORMOUS NEW PROBLEMS CREATED FOR BANGLADESH BY THE SEVERE ESCALATION OF PRICES AS A RESULT OF INFLATION AND THE ENERGY CRISIS, AND NOQ BY THE FLOODS, AND WE ARE TRYING TO HELP AS BEST WE CAN. BUT AS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE 25-MEMBER "AID TO BANGLADESH" CONSORTIUM PREPARES TO MEET OCT 24-25., DONOR COUNTRIES ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WHETHER THE BDG IS DOING ENOUGH TO HELP ITSELF AND WHETHER THE CURRENT BANGLADESH PLANNING STRATEGY IS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR ANY EXPECTATION OF LONG-TERM ECOMQMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE WANT TVSGET OUT OF RELIEF AND ON WITH DEVELOPMENT.

7. ANYTHING YOU MIGHT SAY TO THE SHEIK THAT WOULCD REINFORCE THESE IDEAS IN HISLMIND WOULD BE HELPFUL. I AM SORRY YOU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT TO DACCA DURING YOUR TRIP TO INDIA AND BHUTAN BUT HOPE WE CAN SEE YOU HERE BEFORE LONG.
BEST REGARDS. UNQUOTE.
BOSTER

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